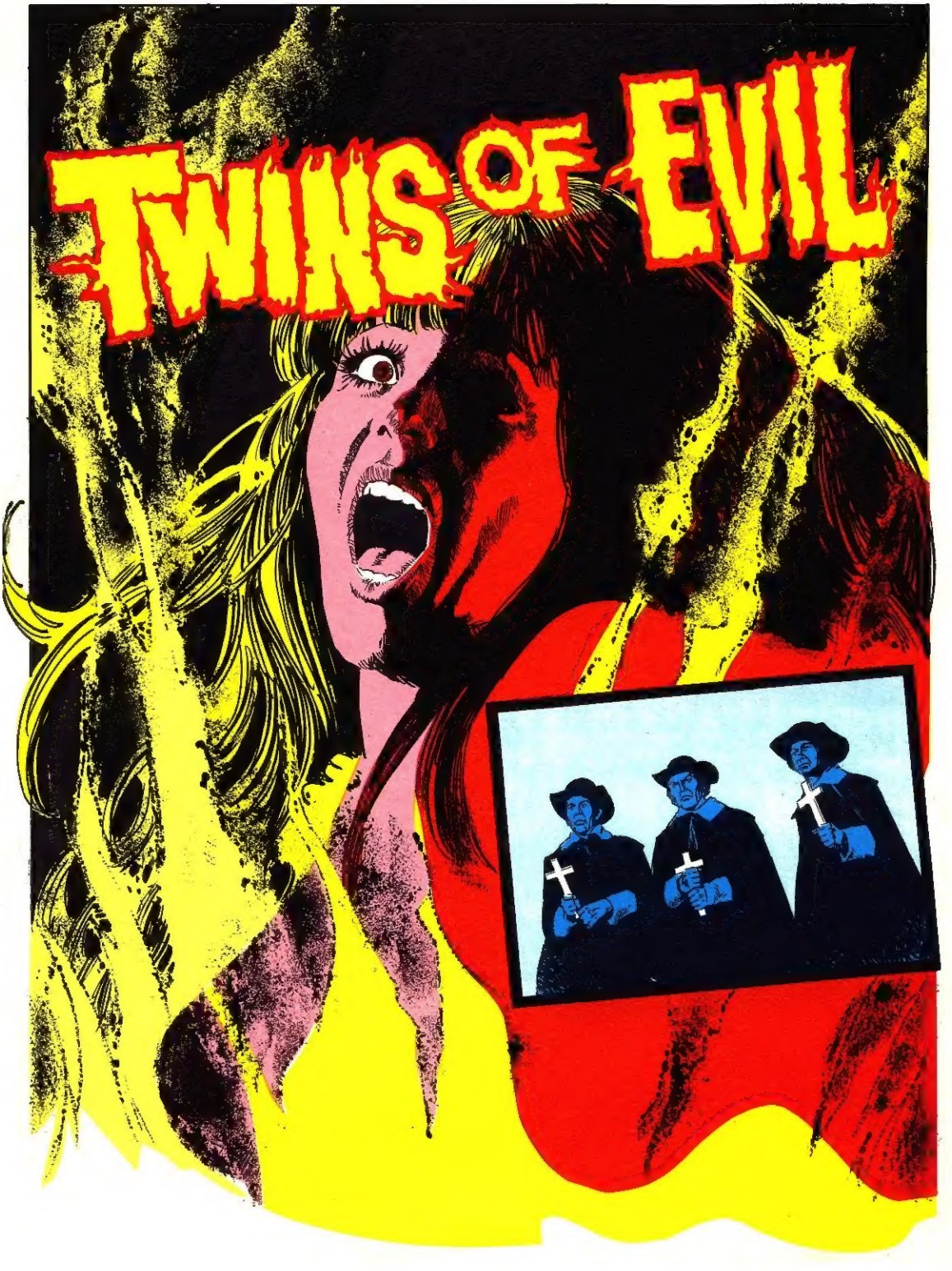
TWINS OF EVIL

TWINS OF EVIL

OH, LOOK, THAT MUST BE KARNSTEIN CASTLE. IT'S *BEAUTIFUL!* LIKE IN A FAIRY TALE...
WHOEVER OWNS IT THAT MUST BE VERY RICH! WHO LIVES THERE? DO YOU KNOW?

COUNT KARNSTEIN.
WE'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE. WE COME FROM VIENNA...

MARIA AND FRIEDA GELLHORN—*IDENTICAL TWINS*. EVEN THEIR AUNT KATY CAN'T *QUITE* TELL THE DIFFERENCE...
YOU MUST BE... MARIA? *YES!* AND FRIEDA! HOW YOU'VE BOTH *GROWN!*

IT WAS GOOD OF YOU AND UNCLE GUSTAV TO ASK US DOWN TO STAY HERE, AUNT KATY.
IT WAS THE LEAST WE COULD DO, MY DEAR... NOW YOUR POOR PARENTS ARE DEAD. YOUR UNCLE GUSTAV SHOULD BE HOME SOON TO GREET YOU...

IN FACT, UNCLE GUSTAV IS *ALREADY* HOME...
WHAT KIND OF *PLUMAGE* IS THIS? *FOR BIRDS OF PARADISE?* YOUR PARENTS ARE NOT COLD IN THEIR GRAVES AND YOU WEAR SUCH *FRIPPERIES!*
GUSTAV...

GUSTAV WEIL—SENIOR ELDER OF KARNSTEIN VILLAGE...A MAN OF STERN *UNYIELDING* PRINCIPLES.
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, UNCLE — WE WORE BLACK FOR *TWO MONTHS*...
TAKE NOT THE *HOME* OF THY CREATOR *IN VAIN*, GIRL! BY THE ROOD, THESE ARE ***GODLESS*** TIMES!

GUSTAV, I'LL GET YOU YOUR MEAL...
NO NEED, WOMAN. I'M GOING *OUT*. THERE IS A MEETING...

...OF THE *BROTHERHOOD*.
DON'T BE UPSET. YOUR UNCLE IS A GOOD MAN. YOU WILL FIND IN KARNSTEIN THEY ARE ALL...*GOOD* MEN.

THESE ARE BUSY TIMES FOR THE GOOD MEN OF KARNSTEIN: THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE...MUCH EVIL TO BE ROOTED OUT...
GOD IS CALLING UPON US, BROTHERS...TO SEEK OUT THE DEVIL-WORSHIPPERS AND WITCHES IN OUR MIDST — AND BURN THEM!
AYE, BURN THEM — AT THE STAKE!
I KNOW OF ONE!

THERE IS A COTTAGE IN THE WOODS. A YOUNG GIRL LIVES THERE... ALONE! SHE REFUSES TO TAKE A HUSBAND.
THEY SAY SHE KEEPS A TOAD AS A PET. I'LL WARRANT SHE KNOWS MAGIC!

THEN COME, BROTHERS — LET US RIDE!
AYE, TO HORSE!
BURN THE WITCH!

THEY RIDE HARD, THESE GOOD MEN OF KARNSTEIN. THEY ARE EAGER TO GET TO GRIPS WITH EVIL...
LOOK! A LIGHT!
THEN FORWARD, BROTHERS — INTO THE HOUSE!
THE WITCH IS ALONE!

BUT THE "WITCH" IS NOT ALONE...
WHAT THE DEVIL D'YOU WANT, WEIL? AFTER MORE YOUNG GIRLS TO BURN, EH? WELL, YOU WON'T BURN THIS ONE — SHE'S MINE!
COUNT KARNSTEIN!

OUT, BLAST YOU! THE BROTHERHOOD HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER ME, WEIL! I DO AS I CHOOSE!
WHY, YOU DECADENT...

BUT AS GUSTAV WEIL RAISES HIS PISTOL... THERE IS SUDDENLY A BLUR OF SPEED, AND A FIGURE STANDS BETWEEN HIM AND THE COUNT— A HUGE FIGURE...MENACING...IMPLACABLE!
YOU NO SHOOT MY MASTER...
NONSENSE, JOACHIM. LET HIM! THINK OF THE PLEASURE IT'LL GIVE THE REST WHEN THEY HANG HIM. EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD HANGING!
YOU ARE EVIL, COUNT KARNSTEIN... EVIL!

THEN YOU'D BETTER PRAY FOR ME, WEIL...!
BUT EVEN GUSTAV WEIL FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ASK HIS CREATOR'S FORGIVENESS FOR THE SINS OF THE LORD OF THE MANOR...
HIS WHOLE LIFE IS DEVOTED TO SINFUL PLEASURES...
GUSTAV — YOU MUST NOT MAKE AN ENEMY OF COUNT KARNSTEIN. HE IS A POWERFUL MAN.

AYE — AND DEBAUCHED, TOO, CURSE THESE PARTIES HE HOLDS — WITH EVIL PEOPLE, ALL EVIL...

THEY INDULGE IN PAGAN RITES... WORSHIP THE DEVIL! BUT THE LORD WILL DESTROY HIM! AYE, OR THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD!

FRIEDA! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
LISTENING, MARIA ...TO A CATALOGUE OF SINS! OH, I SHOULD LIKE TO MEET THIS COUNT KARNSTEIN!

AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, KARNSTEIN WOULD BE GLAD OF A DIVERSION — ANY DIVERSION...
YOUR EXCELLENCY IS PLEASED WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT..?
NO! IT'S A SHAM, AND WE BOTH KNOW IT, DIETRICH!

IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO? OUT, YOU FOOLS — OUT!
AGGH!

...BUT LEAVE THE GIRL.
OH, YES, YOUR EXCELLENCY. OF COURSE...
...THIS WOMAN!

THEY KNEW MY ANCESTORS. THEY DIDN'T PLAY AT BEING EVIL. SATAN TAUGHT THEM DELIGHTS AND PLEASURES... BEYOND THE GRAVE.

RELEASE ME, MY LORD... I BEG OF YOU! I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG!

YYAAAARGH!

OH, LORD OF DARKNESS...I AM WEARY OF THIS WORLD AND ITS PATHETIC PLEASURES. GIVE ME THE POWER TO DO YOUR EVIL — AND IN TOKEN OF MY FAITH, I OFFER YOU...

FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN *ETERNITY*, KARNSTEIN STANDS BY THE BODY OF THE DEAD GIRL — THEN, SUDDENLY, HE BECOMES AWARE THAT HE IS *NOT* ALONE...
WHAT..? WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? *SPEAK!*

YOUR PRAYER TO THE LORD OF DARKNESS HAS BEEN *ANSWERED*. I AM... ***MIRCALLA!***
MIRCALLA KARNSTEIN? BUT YOU'RE *DEAD!* YOU DIED OVER A *CENTURY* AGO!

NOT DEAD — BUT... *UNDEAD!* A ***VAMPIRE!*** AND NOW...

... ***YOU*** WILL BECOME ONE OF US!
UGGH!

SECONDS PASS — AND SUDDENLY COUNT KARNSTEIN IS AWARE OF A *NEW* EXCITEMENT *PULSING* THROUGH HIS VEINS...
YES... *YES!* MY IMAGE IN THE MIRROR... *FADING AWAY!* I AM... A ***VAMPIRE!***

SOON, THE GELLHORN TWINS SETTLE DOWN TO LIFE IN KARNSTEIN. YET FRIEDA IS *RESTLESS*—AS ANTON HOFFNER, THE VILLAGE CHOIRMASTER, *DISCOVERS*...

I FEEL YOU'RE NOT *HAPPY* HERE, FRIEDA. YOUR UNCLE GUSTAV IS MISGUIDED, PERHAPS—YET A GOOD MAN AT HEART.

PERHAPS I DON'T *LIKE* GOOD MEN...

PERHAPS MY INTERESTS RUN IN *OTHER* DIRECTIONS...

IT IS NOT LONG BEFORE FRIEDA MAKES THE *ACQUAINTANCE* OF COUNT KARNSTEIN—MUCH TO HER UNCLE'S *DISPLEASURE*...

FRIEDA! GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL-ROOM *AT ONCE*, D'YOU HEAR?

YOU'RE GETTING *IMPERTINENT*, WEIL. YOUR NIECE WAS JUST PASSING THE TIME OF DAY...

YOU MAY BE THE SENIOR ELDER—BUT I'M STILL *LORD OF THE MANOR*, DAMN YOU!

I'LL SEE SHE NEVER SPEAKS TO YOU *AGAIN*!

BUT FRIEDA HAS *OTHER* IDEAS...

A DELICIOUS *LANGOUR* STEALS OVER FRIEDA, THEN HER PULSE *QUICKENS*...AS THE DESIRE FOR *BLOOD* BECOMES *TOO FIERCE* TO BE DENIED!

SOME TIME LATER, DIETRICH STUMBLES OUT OF THE CASTLE INTO THE NIGHT. HE IS DRUNK... AND *FRIGHTENED*. NEVER BEFORE HAS HIS MASTER THE COUNT ACTED SO *STRANGELY*...

ÁHH! THAT'S... BETTER! GOT TO... GET *AWAY* FROM HERE. KARNSTEIN'S... *CHANGED*, SOMEHOW. ALMOST THINK... HE WANTS TO... *KILL* ME...

BUT DIETRICH IS *NOT* DESTINED TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF *COUNT KARNSTEIN*...

My... GOD!

YYAAAARRHH!

NOW THE SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE HANGS LIKE A *PALL* OVER KARNSTEIN VILLAGE. NO ONE IS SAFE. THE DEATHS CAUSE EVEN A SCEPTICAL ANTON HOFFNER TO BECOME *UNEASY*...

YOU SAY YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* IN VAMPIRES, HOFFNER—YET THE EVIDENCE IS ALL *AROUND* YOU! BODIES DRAINED OF BLOOD... PEOPLE YOU'VE KNOWN ALL YOUR *LIFE*!

YOU... YOU *MAY* BE RIGHT...

RIGHT? OF **COURSE** I'M RIGHT! THIS EVIL MUST BE *STAMPED OUT*... IT IS THE LORD'S WILL! THE VAMPIRES MUST BE FOUND ...*CONSUMED* IN THE PURIFYING FLAMES!

YOU'RE A *FANATIC*, WEIL! IN ANY CASE, ONLY A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART OR DECAPITATION WILL END THEIR EVIL! FIRE IS *USELESS*...

...*IF* THEY EXIST AT ALL...

YOU **KNOW** THEY EXIST!

AND SOON, FOR ANTON HOFFNER, *DOUBT* BECOMES *CERTAINTY*...

WEIL! WHAT... WHAT *IS* THIS?

YOUR OWN SISTER, HOFFNER—*LOOK* AT HER! LOOK AT THE *MARKS* ON HER NECK!

MY... *GOD*! **INGRID!**

AYE! LUCKY SHE WAS *PURE-HEARTED*, HOFFNER! THE PURE *DIE* FROM THE VAMPIRE'S BITE—ONLY THE **EVIL** LIVE ON!

EVEN *FAMILIAR* FIGURES CAN BE STARTLING — IF THEY APPEAR *ABRUPTLY*, OUT OF THE SHADOWS...

UHH? WHY, YOU GAVE ME QUITE A *FRIGHT*, CHILD. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT SO LATE...

YOUR UNCLE WILL BE ANGRY WITH YOU... MARIA? OR IS IT... *FRIEDA*?

GUESS...

BUT, HERMANN HAS NO *TIME* TO GUESS — *NO TIME AT ALL...*

AAAAAAAAHH!

AAAAHH!

FRIEDA!

OHH!

UNCLE...SAVE ME... IT WAS *TERRIBLE!* WE WERE ATTACKED BY *VAMPIRES!* I... ONLY JUST ESCAPED, AND...

CHILD OF *SATAN!* DAUGHTER OF THE *FATHER* OF LIES!

THERE IS STILL **BLOOD** ON YOUR LIPS...

AAAH! NO...*NO!*

LORD HELP ME! THE DEVIL HAS SENT ME...*TWINS OF EVIL!*

A POTION FROM THE APOTHECARY SOOTHES *MARIA'S* MIND OUT OF ITS *SHOCKED STATE*—A CONDITION BROUGHT ON BY THE NEWS THAT HER TWIN SISTER IS A *VAMPIRE*...

BUT NO *POTION* CAN PROTECT HER FROM *COUNT KARNSTEIN*...

ONLY THE SACRED *CROSS* CAN DO *THAT*...

OHH.. FRIEDA... FRIEDA...

YOU SAY MARIA CLUTCHES *THE CROSS* TO HER IN HER SLEEP? THE LORD BE PRAISED! SHE, AT LEAST, *CANNOT* BE A VAMPIRE!

AYE, GUSTAV —BUT WHAT OF THE OTHER...?

...WHAT OF *FRIEDA*? CAN *NOTHING* BE DONE FOR HER?

NAY, KATY. THE ..BROTHERHOOD *THEY*... WILL DECIDE...

GUILTY!
GUILTY!
OF COURSE SHE'S GUILTY! DID WE NOT SEE HER WITH OUR OWN EYES ...FEASTING ON OUR POOR COMRADE? SHE MUST BURN!

AYE, BURN HER!
TO THE STAKE WITH THE WITCH!
AND WE MUST DO IT NOW, BROTHERS ...NOW!

THERE IS NO THOUGHT IN THE MINDS OF THE GOOD MEN OF THE BROTHERHOOD ABOUT HOW FRIEDA BECAME A VAMPIRE... WHO MADE HER ONE—IT IS LEFT FOR A WOMAN TO DISCOVER THIS...
NO...FRIEDA... DON'T GO...NOT TO COUNT KARNSTEIN ...HE'S WICKED... EVIL...NO...
KARNSTEIN!

GOT YOU, MY GIRL! THOSE WITLESS DOLTS ARE NO MATCH FOR KARNSTEIN!
I KNEW YOU'D COME, MY LORD. BUT WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT MARIA?
THE VILLAGERS WILL THINK SHE IS YOU... WILL BURN HER—AND YOU, MY DEAR, CAN BECOME HER!

COME... QUICKLY! THEY WILL SOON BE HERE! THIS OAF WILL AWAKEN SHORTLY. I MESMERISED HIM— HE WILL REMEMBER NOTHING

DRAG HER OUT OF HER CELL!
BURN HER! BURN THE VAMPIRE!

BUT KARNSTEIN, IN HIS PLANNING, HAS TAKEN NO ACCOUNT OF A FRENZIED ANTON HOFFNER— WORRIED OUT OF HIS WITS ABOUT MARIA...
MARIA! POOR MARIA...
ANTON...

THERE, THERE, GIRL. IT'S ALL OVER... ALL YOUR TROUBLES. I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU, MARIA. I'LL...

SEIZE HER!
TO THE STAKE WITH HER!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE AM I? —WHERE AM I?

YOU'RE NOT...
NO, ANTON... NOT MARIA! I AM... FRIEDA!

CAN IT BE TRUE!

NO! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! I'M NOT FRIEDA! I'M MARIA!
THE GIRL LIES! DRAG HER TO THE STAKE!
BURN HER!

IN THE BEDROOM, ANTON'S WILDLY GROPING HAND *LOCKS* ON TO SOMETHING *HIDDEN* IN THE TANGLED FOLDS OF THE BLANKETS — AND...

THE *CROSS*, WITCH! BACK, *BACK*, I SAY!

AAAH! — NO!

YAAAARRGH!

ANTON RIDES LIKE THE *WIND* THROUGH THE NIGHT-ENSHROUDED FOREST...

WHAT..?

STOP, YOU FOOLS! YOU'VE GOT THE *WRONG GIRL*! THE DEVIL HAS *OUTWITTED* YOU!

AND *HIS* ARRIVAL COINCIDES WITH THAT OF *KATY*...

OH, ANTON... THANK GOD! *THANK GOD!*

THIS IS MARIA — *NOT* FRIEDA! SOMEHOW... THEY'VE BEEN *SWITCHED!*

AYE, AND I KNOW WHO BY, TOO. *COUNT KARNSTEIN!*

WHAT? *KARNSTEIN?*

SO... KARNSTEIN, EH? HOW D'YOU REACT TO *THAT*, YOU GOOD MEN OF THE BROTHERHOOD? YOU'RE QUICK TO BURN INNOCENT YOUNG GIRLS AS *WITCHES* — BUT WILL YOU DESTROY A *NOBLEMAN*?

AYE! *BURN* THE DOG!

TO THE STAKE WITH THE FIEND!

NO! BURNING IS *USELESS!* FIRE WILL *NEVER* VANQUISH VAMPIRES! BUT THEY CAN BE DESTROYED. THERE IS *ANOTHER* WAY...

TELL US... TELL US!

LET THEM COME...

THEY WILL BURN US, MY DEAR FRIEDA—BUT WHAT DOES IT *MATTER*? THE FLAMES WILL MELT OUR BODIES... BUT *WITHOUT* PAIN! WE CAN FIND *NEW* BODIES ...AND NEW ***VICTIMS!***
AT THAT MOMENT...
MASTER...MASTER! THEY *COME*! BUT WITH SHARPENED *STAKES*... AND ***AXES!***
WHAT? THIS IS *HOFFNER'S* DOING, CURSE HIM! WE MUST ESCAPE THROUGH ONE OF THE TUNNELS...
AND ESCAPE THEY *DO* —ALL EXCEPT FOR...
JOACHIM!
IT'S KARNSTEIN'S SERVANT! *LOOK OUT!*
AAARGH!
STAKE HIM! ***STAKE*** HIS BLACK HEART!
YYAAAARRGH!
THEY'VE GOT JOACHIM, THE DOGS! BUT *WE'RE* SAFE, AT LEAST. UP THE STEPS, MY DEAR ...TO ***FREEDOM!***
ARE YOU COMING TOO, MY LORD?
YES...*YES!* OF COURSE! ***HURRY,*** GIRL...

TAKE HER BODY TO THE CHAPEL...
HE'S GONE! A SECRET DOOR! HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
BACK TO THE CASTLE...

KARNSTEIN HAS VANISHED. THE VILLAGERS KNOW THAT THE CASTLE IS HONEYCOMBED WITH SECRET PASSAGES — WHICH IS MORE THAN MARIA KNOWS...
FRIEDA...? WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU THERE...?

NO, MY DEAR — BUT I AM!

ANTON, SEARCHING FOR MARIA, HEARS THE SUDDEN SHRIEK OF TERROR...
AAGH!
OH, MY GOD! HE'S GOT HER! KARNSTEIN'S GOT MARIA!

FRANTIC, THE YOUNG CHOIRMASTER RACES BACK TO THE CASTLE — TO FIND THAT KARNSTEIN HAS REACHED THERE FIRST...
NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO, FOOLS?
SHE'S UP THERE — BUT WE CAN'T GET AT KARNSTEIN. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WAY UP TO THE GALLERY...

AS FRANZ HAS SAID, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WAY UP — BUT GUSTAV WEIL HAS FOUND ONE...
I'LL GET HIM!
NO... WAIT! MARIA'S TOO CLOSE! YOU MAY HIT HER!

NOW, YOU DOG — I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS MOMENT!
WEIL!

UHH!
MISSED, FOOL!

BUT I WON'T!
NO!

AAAARRRG!

NOW, ANTON— NOW!

AAA AAARRRG
OH, ANTON... ANTON...
COME, MY DEAR ... IT'S OVER. THE EVIL IS ALL OVER...

The End

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